

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A bait station for offering a bait to a target insect, comprising:
  - a. an open top base having a floor, an outer wall that extends upwardly from the floor to an outer rim, and an inner wall that extends upwardly from the floor to an inner rim, said inner wall being spaced inwardly from said outer wall to define a central bait well for containing insect bait, said base further including:
    - i. an insect-climbable tapered wall extending downwardly and outwardly from said inner wall that cooperates with said outer wall to define a moat that surrounds said bait well, and
    - ii. at least one doorway formed in said outer wall, the doorway having a size sufficient to permit a target insect ingress to and egress from said bait well;
  - b. a cap enclosing the open top base and covering said bait well; and
  - c. a spike extending downwardly from the base.
2. The bait station of claim 1 wherein said tapered wall has an upper end contiguous with said inner rim.
3. The bait station of claim 1 wherein said tapered wall has a lower end contiguous with said outer wall.
4. The bait station of claim 3 wherein said doorway includes a lower sill, said lower sill being contiguous with the lower end of said tapered wall.
5. The bait station of claim 1 wherein said doorway opens directly into said moat.
6. The bait station of claim 1 wherein said doorway includes an upper lintel, and said inner rim is located above said upper lintel.

7. The bait station of claim 6 wherein said outer rim is located above said inner rim.

8. The bait station of claim 1 wherein said spike includes first and second vanes, the first vane extending downwardly further than the second vane.

9. The bait station of claim 1 wherein said cap includes a cap ceiling having an outer periphery, a rim extending downwardly from the outer periphery of the cap ceiling, and further including interlocking means for releasable interconnecting the rim of said cap with the outer wall of said base.

10. The bait station of claim 9 wherein the cap rim is located adjacent to and interiorly of the outer wall and wherein said interlocking means comprises an outwardly extending cap retention ledge on said cap rim and an inwardly extending base wall retention ledge on said outer wall, the cap and base wall retention ledges being engaged in a snap-fit arrangement so as to resist removal of the cap from the base.

11. The bait station of claim 10 further including a cap support that extends inwardly from the outer wall, said cap support providing a support surface against which the rim of the cap is engaged, and limiting the downward movement of the cap within the base.

12. The bait station of claim 11 wherein the cap support further includes an upwardly extending guide member that engages inwardly facing surfaces of the rim of the cap to prevent inward movement of the rim.

13. The bait station of claim 1 wherein said cap further includes a cap strut extending across the underside of said cap ceiling and downwardly therefrom, the cap strut engaging the inner rim of said base to support the cap ceiling.

14. A bait station for offering a bait to a target insect, comprising:

a. an open top base including

i. a bait well having a well floor and an inner well wall that extends upwardly from the well floor to an inner well rim, a moat surrounding and

- 5 extending lower than the well rim, and an insect-climbable tapered surface extending upwardly from the moat to the well rim;
- ii. an outer base wall surrounding the moat and defining the exterior perimeter of the base; and
- iii. a doorway formed in the outer base wall, the doorway
- 10 having a size sufficient to admit a target insect;
- b. a cap spanning the open top of the base and covering the bait well, the cap having
- i. a cap ceiling having an outer periphery;
- ii. a cap rim extending downwardly from the periphery of
- 15 the cap ceiling; and
- iii. a cap strut extending across the underside of the cap ceiling and downwardly therefrom, the cap strut contacting the inner well rim to brace the cap against the inner well rim; and
- c. a longitudinally extended spike extending downwardly from
- 20 beneath the well floor, the spike being positioned so that force exerted downwardly against the cap is transmitted via the cap strut to the well wall and thereby to the spike.

15. The bait station of claim 14 wherein the spike includes a vane that extends downwardly from a top portion of the spike for a selected distance, the vane including vane braces extending laterally at the top portion of the spike to extend under the inner well wall to transmit downward force therefrom to the vane.

16. The bait station of claim 14 wherein the spike includes first and second longitudinal vanes, the first vane extending downwardly further than the second vane.

17. The bait station of claim 14 wherein the cap rim is located adjacent to and interiorly of the outer base wall and wherein the cap rim has an outwardly extending cap retention ledge and the outer base wall has an inwardly extending base wall retention ledge, the cap and base wall retention ledges being engaged in a snap-fit arrangement so as to resist removal of the cap from the base.

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18. The bait station of claim 17 further including a cap support that extends inwardly from the outer base wall, providing a support surface against which the rim of the cap is engaged, limiting the downward movement of the cap within the base.

19. The bait station of claim 18 wherein the cap support further includes an upwardly extending guide member that engages inwardly surfaces of the rim of the cap to prevent inward movement of the rim.

20. The bait station of claim 14 wherein the outer base wall extends upwardly from a lowest portion of the moat, and wherein the doorway extends upwardly from a lower-most portion of the outer base wall, to simultaneously provide the target insect with access to the bait well and allow any moisture collecting in the moat to drain out from the moat through the doorway.